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Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Statement submitted by Centre for Public Health, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

The Centre for Public Health is a national non-governmental not for profit organization in Nigeria, it is also registered in New York with 501c3 status. Centre for Public Health is an organization working to reduce the high mortality rates in the developing countries through advocacy, policy development/implementation and service deliveries. Centre for Public Health happily commends the 63rd session of the Commission on the Status of Women for adopting the theme Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructures for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Centre for public health is on the fore front of raising national/global awareness about the Non-Communicable diseases (cancer, hypertension, diabetes, mental health). Increasing awareness of the preventive methods especially life style modification, increasing and enhancing access for people living with non-communicable diseases to non-communicable disease treatment and drugs.

Currently we are working to inform all women about cervical cancer, three hundred and twenty thousand (320,000) have been reached through the Door2Door initiative. Centre for Public Health is also providing cervical screening (Paps smear and Human papilloma virus test) to the women from 25 to 65 years. Increasing demand and provision for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine. We also support women with cervical cancer to have a quality life through treatment and palliative care.

We are also distributing non-communicable disease drugs to the people living with non-communicable diseases such as people with hypertension, diabetes through our health centres in the rural areas at no cost. These people have no access to non-communicable disease drugs.

Despite the fact that high income countries have shown that with successful and effective implementation of comprehensive cervical cancer prevention and control, incidence and deaths from the disease can be dramatically reduced (World Health Organization). Yet there are no such programs in the low- and middle-income countries where the 90 per cent of the cervical cancer deaths occur. Most of the women in these low- and middle-income countries have no access to the cervical cancer services which could have saved their lives nor the palliative care to help them manage pain and safeguard their quality of life (WHO).

On the foregoing we are advocating for inclusion of the Human Papilloma Virus vaccine in all the member state program of immunization, combined with compulsory cervical screening (Paps smear and Human Papilloma Virus test) for all women within the specified age range.

We are also advocating for compulsory Community Based Social Health Insurance Program as a tool to ensure equal access to health services, accessible, affordable and available quality health care.

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